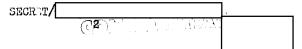
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CLASSIFICATION SECRET COUNTRY Poland TOPIC Polish Troops in Tipleko-Pipla 25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINE	25X1
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DATE OF CONTENT_October 1948 to August 1950	PREPARED 8 December 1350
REMARKS	- 1 h

- 1. Prior to August 1950 the provar Artillery Barracks in the southern sector of Bielsko-Piala (Q 50/X 38) were occupied by a colish sotorized artillery regiment. Soldiers known to source referred to it as the 17th Arty Regt and stated that the regiment had been transferred from Oppelm (P 51/J 17) to citlsko-Piala in 1947. They also said that the regimental commander was of Russian descent and belonged to the Polish cray only since 1947 or 1948. (1)
- 2. Units of from 120 to 150 troops were seen leaving for field exercises. E.ch of three motion picture performances given one day was attended by 250 to 300 men.
- 3. Among the acquaintances of source were coldiers from Krakow (Q 51/Z 24), Danzig (Q 55/Y 42) and Azeszow (R 51/V 74). From them he learned that some personnel of the 1927 class, the entire 1928 class, and some personnel of the 1929 class were in service with the army in the summer of 1939. The 1925 and 1926 classes were discharged. Len born after 1929 could volunteer for active service. Inductions were effected in the spring and in the Tall. Coldiers said that the term of service with the motorized artillery was 27 months. (2)
- h. From conversations source gained the impression that the soldiers were not enthusiastic about their military service. They couplained that the Soviets were more and more infiltrating the Tolish officer corpul Some soldiers said that, in case of war against the west, they ought to "take to the woods".
- 5. About 15 guns of 100 to 120 mm caliber were observed at the Artillery Barracks. The guns had two proumatic tires, no muszle brake and a vertical shield. Their prime movers were trucks of American make. (3) Small arms observed included submachine guns, rifles with fixed bayonets and carbines. The submachine guns were of Loviet origin and had wooden stocks and 71-round drum magazines. The unit was predominantly equipped with submachine guns.

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6. The soldiers were field caps or round, brownish-green service caps with a red ribbon, a black vizor and the Polish-eagle emblem in front; brownish-green coats with red-bordered epaulets of the same color and red braid at the tips of the collar patches; a leather belt with a buckle; trousers intended to be tucked into laced boots, or breeches with wrapped leggings; and overcoats or, sometimes, quilted cotton uniforms in winter.

- 7. Training was chiefly conducted in the billeting area. No guns were observed with troops leaving for a road march. In April 1950 a large-scale field exercise was held near Bielsko-Biala, with the artillery regiment participating. Upon completion of the exercise another artillery unit moved through Bielsko-Biala, having about 60 trucks, many of which were towing artillery pieces.
- 8. A unit of about 1,00 men, generally referred to as an infantry unit, was quartered in an old permanent barracks installation, located about 500 meters east of the artillery Barracks and between the railroad line and the road to Zywiec (Q 50/X 96).
- 9. Every spring and fall this unit received recruits who, after six months basic training, were shipped out for reassignment. It was known in Bielsko-Riala that the recruits were committed to work in coal mines upon completion of their basic training. Some of them morked in coal mines at Brzeszcze (Q 50/X 99) and Czechowice (Q 50/X 88). (4)
- 10. The unit was equipped only with small arms, including machine guns with wooden stock and drum magazine, submachine guns with metal stock and slightly curved clip magazine, and carbines.
- 11. The troops were brownish-green blouses with helt, trousers intended to be tucked into laced boots and, as headgear, most were the four-cornered Polish Army cap. No details on service colors or insignia were known.
- 12. Prior to august 1950 no Soviet troops were stationed in Fielsko-Hiala. Only one officer clad in Soviet uniform and accompanied by Polish officers was repeatedly seen in the summer of 1950. It was rumored that a five-story building on Pmolki Square (formerly Goethe Square) was to be vacated by the civilian residents and was to be used as a Soviet officers' billot. The eviction of residents had, however, not been effected by August 1950.

Comments.

(1) Probably the 23d Light Arty Rogt of the 6th Inf Div, which was repeatedly confirmed in Fielsko-Piala.

(2) The data on the classes are correct. They confirm available information on the induction system in Poland. However, the service term with the artillery is two years, the came as that of all other branches of service. 27-month service term has only been introduced into the KBW (Corps of Internal Security) and the TOB (Forder Buard Corps). See Article 42 of the Universal Filitary Law of 4 February 1950.

(3) Probably the Soviet model 1939 field cannon of 76 mm calibor, which is used in light artillery units. The calibor stated was highly overestimated. The model 1938 field howitzer of 122 mm calibor, which might also be concerned, has a clanting shield. It is probable, however, that one battalion of the regiment was equipped with these field howitzers, which were not observed by the informant.

(h) Possibly one of the labor units that have been frequently observed in the industrial area.

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